

App. No. 10/782,133
Amendment Dated: July 2, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed March 2, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. The Office Action rejected claims 1-18. Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice et al. (US Publication No. 2004/0141015) (hereinafter "Fitzmaurice"). Claims 3, 5, 6, 7-12, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice in view of Kupka (US Patent No. 7,055,110). Claims 1, 8, 11, 13 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. In response, the Applicants have amended the specification to describe in plain text the use of the acronyms. The Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response Claim 13 has been amended to recite "computer-readable storage medium." The Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 11, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

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applicant regards as the invention. In response, Claims 1, 11, 17 and 18 have been amended to address the rejections. The Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice. Claims 3, 5, 6, 7-12, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzmaurice in view of Kupka (US 7,055,110).

With regard to Claim 1, the Office Action states that Fitzmaurice discloses "a pen-mouse system, in which a glom widget menu is displayed when the widget is selected (page 3-page 4, paragraph 51), but does not explicitly disclose placing a glom widget near a current writing location. However, Fitzmaurice does disclose that the tracking menu (glom widget) follows the cursor, and remains stationary when moving the cursor inside the tracking menu (page 2, paragraph 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the widget could be placed near a writing location. One would have been motivated to place a glom widget near a current writing location so that movement across the tablet PC would be reduced." While the Applicants disagree, the Claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

As amended, Claim 1 recites in part "displaying a glom widget menu that includes menu items to access the commands that are associated with the writing near the current writing location when the glom widget is selected." In contrast, Fitzmaurice discloses a graphical picture of a mouse that is directed at providing the standard functionality of a mouse.

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In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Fitzmaurice discloses a graphical user interface that has the appearance of a mouse. At paragraph 36, Fitzmaurice states that "This interface 10, which for convenience will be called a pen-mouse, is a tracking menu where the pen-mouse 10 tracks the position of a stylus or pen being used with a pen-based computer. A tracking menu is a graphical user interface widget that is controlled by either a pen or mouse having an associated pen or mouse cursor where the cursors can be invisible. A tracking menu is invoked and dismissed in the same manner as a traditional modal tool by clicking on a tool palette or menu item." Paragraph 37 of Fitzmaurice states that "By moving the pen, the cursor 16 can be positioned to point at an object in the same way that a cursor for a mouse is positioned to point at an object." In other words, Fitzmaurice discloses a graphical representation of a mouse that may be invoked by a pen. Fitzmaurice, however, does not disclose providing commands that are associated with writing in a writing area. Additionally, as disclosed by the Office Action, Fitzmaurice does not disclose placing a glom widget near a current writing location. Further yet, Fitzmaurice does not teach determining a current writing location. Instead, Fitzmaurice teaches determining a current cursor location which can be different from a current writing location. The Office Action further argues that Kupka "discloses a system and method for a common on screen zone for menu activation and stroke input that further comprises commands or actions that correspond to font characteristics and paragraph characteristics (column 5, lines 48-61)." Kupka, however, is directed at providing "a user interface includes at least one zone that is capable of accepting command input according to two or more input methods. For example, a user can click on the zone to activate a menu including a number of commands, or the user can perform stroke input on the zone to directly activate a command

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associated with the stroke input" (col. 2, lines 29-35). Each of the zones described in Kupka relate to a particular location on the screen and do not relate to writing on a screen. Additionally, the menu items disclosed in Kupka correspond directly to the associated zone. In other words, the zone is determinative of the menu and not the writing. Since Fitzmaurice and Kupka do not disclose the recitations found within Claim 1, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 2-7 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Claim 8, as amended recites in part "displaying a glom widget menu that includes menu items to access the commands that are associated with the writing near the current writing location when the glom widget is selected." For at least the reasons presented above, Claim 8 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 9-12 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Claim 13, as amended recites in part "displaying a glom widget menu having menu items that are associated with handwriting near the current writing location when the glom widget is selected." For at least the reasons presented above, Claim 13 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 13-18 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application,

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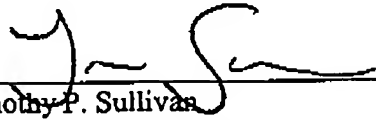
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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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